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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. STEVENS].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God, who is our refuge and strength, our shelter in the time of storms, we begin this day by looking to You for guidance and discernment. Thank You for daily victories over our worst selves and for fellowship with You.

Bless our Senators. Give them strength for their difficult tasks, victory over temptation, and fulfillment in their work.

Help each of us to stand guard against those thoughts and passions that lead us from You. May our consciousness of Your presence become more real with each hour of every day.

We pray this in Your strong name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning the Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Michael Leavitt to be Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. There will be 1 hour of debate prior to the nomination. I am pleased this distinguished nominee for the President's

Cabinet will receive an up-or-down vote and anticipate his confirmation by an overwhelming majority this morning.

Following the disposition of the Leavitt nomination, the Senate will resume debate on the foreign operations appropriations bill. There are several amendments pending to the bill. We hope to begin scheduling votes on those amendments. Senator MCCONNELL will be here following the nomination vote. We anticipate completing action on the bill during today's session. Therefore, Senators should expect rollcall votes throughout the day and possibly votes into the evening, if necessary.

Each day I come to the floor I mention the schedule and the remaining business before the Senate. Again, I would like to reiterate that the days of this session are waning, but we have a full legislative agenda and executive matters to finish. We have the appropriations bills and the conference reports, Healthy Forests—and the tragic events in California underscore the need for this crucial legislation. Regarding the Fair Credit Reporting Act, we are in discussions, and I hope an agreement can be reached on its consideration. If not, it will be necessary to take the procedural steps to ensure that the Senate does act on this very important piece of bipartisan legislation.

We have the Internet tax moratorium. Discussions are underway on an agreement to allow us to act before the expiration of the existing law.

On the climate change legislation, we have a 6-hour agreement. I hope we can possibly use less time than those 6 hours. We are looking for an available time to consider it this week.

We have the judicial nominations as well.

Again, I hope to make efficient use of the Senate's time over the coming days, and I hope and look forward to working with the Democratic leadership so we can consider these bills

under time agreements and in a timely fashion.

Everybody is aware of the scheduling challenges we have during this time of year. But with the cooperation of all Members, we will be able to finish our work and adjourn at the earliest possible time. As always, I thank our colleagues and Senators for their cooperation and energy and patience to accomplish this as we go forward.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The assistant Democratic leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, while the distinguished majority leader is in the Chamber, the Senator from Kentucky and I had a conversation on the floor here last night—it was public in nature—indicating that it was the majority leader's intention for us to work on November 10 and 11 that is, Monday and Tuesday of the week after next.

I totally support that. If we are going to get out of here, we have to work that week. The leader set November 7 as a time when we should get out. I think that will be nearly impossible. We may. I hope, if we are going to try to adjourn on November 14, that Members will understand we are going to have to do more than Monday and Tuesday than have votes on judges. We are going to have to go into substantive matters and all during Monday have votes. If we are going to come at 5 o'clock and have a relatively unimportant vote, then I don't think we will accomplish much.

If we have, I repeat, any intention, any hope of getting out of here on November 14—which I hope we could do—we are going to have to work Monday and Tuesday. I fully support the majority leader.

As I said last night on the floor, the veterans of the State of Nevada would also understand why, on an important holiday, Veterans Day, we would be

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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